

## BRIEFS

### OREGON CHRISTIANS FIGHT FINE, SEIZURE

SALEM, Ore. (BP) — Christian bakers Aaron and Melissa Klein took their religious liberty fight to court March 2 after they were penalized for refusing business for a lesbian couple's commitment ceremony. The Kleins had operated Sweet Cakes by Melissa in Gresham until an Oregon administrative law judge fined them \$135,000 in April 2015, saying they violated the lesbian couple's civil rights by refusing to design a custom cake two years earlier. The fine has been paid thanks to an Internet crowdfunding campaign, but the State of Oregon has yet to return their seized personal bank accounts.

### LIFEWAY EXPANDING IN GLOBAL MARKETS

LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville now reaches 103 countries with print and digital resources, and currently has offices or representatives in China, India, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and Guatemala. Resources are published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Korean, and licensed in more than 60 languages. "God is pouring out His Spirit on the nations," said Greg Featherstone, director of LifeWay Global. "LifeWay exists to serve the church in her mission of making disciples, and that promise extends to the ends of the earth."

### STORMS TAKE TOLL IN SOUTH, MIDWEST

OTTAWA, Ill. (BP) — Severe weather last week left at least four people dead and damaged a number of churches. An overnight thunderstorm in Walnut Ridge, Ar., led to damage at Williams College, affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention-affiliated school. In Kentucky, at least four churches were damaged. First Church of Walton saw its 35-foot steeple lifted off the building and thrown onto a busy highway during the morning commute. About 100 volunteer members of Illinois Baptist disaster relief team have been deployed, with efforts focused on debris removal.

## ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

# Big life change results in Gospel gains



### MULTIPLE BAPTISMS

— Garth Leno (right), pastor of The Gathering in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and associate pastor Phil Siebenmorgen baptize Nathan Langlois during a July 10, 2016, church service that included more baptisms and a baby dedication — not unusual for this growing congregation. Leno and his wife Patty are North American Mission Board 2017 Week of Prayer missionaries. (NAMB photo)



WINDSOR, Ontario, Canada (Special and local reports) — Garth Leno and his wife Patty spent more than 30 years serving a denomination that began to alter important doctrinal positions and had no net membership gains in Canadian churches in many years.

Struggles within that denomination erupted that eventually led to their departure. The pair started a Saturday night Bible study mostly with people who were, in Garth's words, "disillusioned with church." What started in their home in September 2013 soon moved to a local golf club house, and before long they had outgrown that location.

"Maybe we should start a church," Garth joked. He didn't expect the overwhelming response. Everyone in the group agreed they should. Someone said, "Whenever you are ready, we are ready." When their close friends made that offer, Patty began sobbing as wounds from their last church were still fresh.

"Seriously, planting a church was the last thing we wanted to do," Garth said, "but it was obviously the first thing that God had in mind for us."

Leno had no job leads secular or ministerial when he met Wayne Parker, pastor of Meridian Road Church in Garden City, Mi., just across the

see LENO on p. 6

# Persistence breeds success



**MAKING FRIENDS** — Food and college students are a natural bridge for fellowship and relationship building for Jessica (standing at left) and Jacob (far right) Dahl, North American Mission Board 2017 Week of Prayer missionaries. The collegiate church planting couple regularly open their home for gatherings and Resonate Church small group meetings at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. (NAMB photo)

ELLENSBURG, Wa. (Special and local reports) — College degree in hand, Jacob Dahl found himself living in his parent's basement in Bellingham, Wa. The economy had tanked, and there were few jobs for civil engineering graduates. He took a job working up to 80 hours per week on a raspberry farm for minimum wage.

However, Dahl soon realized raspberry farming was not his calling. He moved to Pullman, Wa., for an internship with Resonate Church. There wasn't much competition for that job, so the church told Dahl, "You're the best we have, so we can't tell you no."

Looking back, Dahl understands why the Resonate

see DAHL on p. 6

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Don't relax yet

A funny thing happened on the way to passage of a lottery bill in this year's gathering of the Mississippi Legislature. When a voice vote was taken in the House of Representatives that would have moved a lottery bill along, it sounded to many observers as if the proposal had been approved. However, when one of the representatives forced a subsequent vote on the record, the move failed.

Here's the funny (as in ridiculous) part: Voice votes are of course anonymous by their very nature. A voice vote consists of legislators shouting "Yes" or "No," at the appointed time. It's not possible to record what each legislator shouts during the anonymity, so no one would have known how individual representatives voted on a lottery. However, when the reps had to go on the record as to how they voted on a lottery, the proposal went down to defeat.

It's easy to figure out the incongruity, at least when viewed through a politician's eyes. In Mississippi's succession of gambling governors, it is widely believed that the non-negotiable support for a lottery by Democrat Ray Mabus contributed to his 2001 defeat for a second term by the first Republican governor since Reconstruction, and as a result derailed his well-known aspirations for national political office.

From that point forward, lottery politics in Mississippi has been a third rail. ("Third rail" is defined in the dictionary as, "an additional rail supplying electric current, used in some electric railroad systems. U.S. informal: a subject or issue considered by politicians to be too controversial to discuss.")

That is, too controversial until our current gambling governor, Republican Phil Bryant, Bryant stuck his finger into the wind last Fall when he coyly let it be known that he might be open to considering a lottery. Then in his State of the State address to the Legislature in January of this year, an outright call for adoption of a lottery (a real surprise).

In justifying his support for a lottery, he used the juvenile excuse that everyone else is doing it. "When we see traffic crowded on the Mississippi River bridge taking revenue to our neighboring state, it may be time to face a new reality," according to Bryant's publicly-released State of the State text. "We can no longer contain the people's desire for a lottery, we can only force them to travel."

Republican Representative Mark Baker of Brandon took the governor's idea seriously enough that he underhandedly stripped a bill he had originally introduced himself to help state courts determine the mental capacity of an accused person, and turned it into a lottery bill. The bill died on deadline.

Bryant was undeterred, telling Associated Press in late February that he wanted legislators to continue to push for a lottery even though it was a dead issue in the House. Baker was equally undeterred, predicting that a lottery bill from the Senate in the far side of the New Capitol could well make its way to the House for a vote that would send it to the Governor for his signature.

That means the lottery in Mississippi isn't dead yet. We must maintain our vigilance. To the lottery supporters who criticize us for not taking the state's malnourished budget into consideration, here's the tried-and-true, indisputable reply: Wasn't legal liquor supposed to save the state? Oh, that's right, it was legalized casino gambling that would pave our streets with gold. Hahn't happened? Well then, surely we'll find our financial salvation by allowing the casinos to move ashore after Hurricane Katrina. Right? Right?

When will we learn that politicians' promises can't be trusted? When will we stop falling for their snake oil pitches like the lottery? The answer is, when we begin to think for ourselves.

That, combined with a lot of prayer and Bible study, will put us on the right path — not a lottery.

## Reaching for the top

Southern Baptists are known for their generosity to missions, and 2016 was no exception. I am happy to report that giving to last year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions totaled \$58,860,553 — the second largest Annie offering ever given!

This is extraordinary in a year when so many of our churches gave above and beyond in response to the special call from our International Mission Board. We are humbled by how God has moved once again through Southern Baptists, and we are excited about what this means for our missionaries who serve throughout the United States and Canada.

The need in North America is great. We have done a great job reaching the South. In Mississippi there is one Southern Baptist church for every 1,395 people — number one in the Southern Baptist Convention. In Alabama it's one for every 1,451 people. We are grateful for so many Southern Baptists in the South. They give 87% of all Cooperative Program giving.

While these churches help reach their neighbors for Christ, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) is rushing resources to non-South areas like New York where there is one Southern Baptist church for every 57,900 people. New Jersey has one Southern Baptist church for every 75,124 people. The Canadian province of Quebec has only one Southern Baptist church for every 185,349 people.

These numbers are staggering when you consider how much more Gospel access some people have than others.



Guest opinion  
with Kevin Ezell

The Annie offering gives NAMB half of its annual income. Everything given to Annie goes directly to the field — missionaries, church plants, evangelism resources, and training/equipping of the next generation of missionaries.

A special thanks goes to North Carolina Baptists and Alabama Baptists. Once again they are the top giving state conventions to Annie. North Carolina is number one with \$6,058,574 and Alabama was a very strong second at \$5,878,970. We are so grateful for the pastors, state leaders, and all Southern Baptists who gave so generously in these states.

I am also greatly encouraged by the increase in Annie giving that we saw from so many state convention partners: Arizona, Arkansas, California, the Dakotas, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Mississippi (\$3,726,913), Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Northwest Convention, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Southern Baptists

see EZELL on p. 7



### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR North American Missions

Goal: \$70 Million

North American  
Mission Board

ANNE  
ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING

## The Baptist Record

Editor  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbc.org

Associate Editor  
Iory Martin  
imartin@mbc.org

Layout/Design  
Megan Young  
myoung@mbc.org

Advertising  
Dana Richardson  
d Richardson@mbc.org

Circulation Manager  
Amy Massey  
amassey@mbc.org

Baptist Record  
Advisory Committee:  
Walter Lewis, New Albany  
Derrick Wilson, Knoxville  
Carolyn Reeves, Oxford  
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Lucy Stringer, Freetown  
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Tel: (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbc.org

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# A church grows in Brooklyn: a success story

**BROOKLYN, N.Y. (Special and local reports)** — Rich Bowman was an atheist. Now he preaches at Bridge Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. Next September, he will be the pastor of the Bridge Church's first church plant in Flatbush, N.Y.

His wife Emmy, once painfully shy, is now the primary person the women of Bridge Church seek for discipleship advice.

"It's a Holy Spirit thing," said James Roberson, pastor of Bridge Church who was living in Atlanta when he was called to plant the church.

Getting to the New York City borough of Brooklyn from Atlanta was a challenge for Roberson and wife Natarsha. After years of campus and church ministry throughout the South, James knew that God was moving them into church planting, maybe in his native state of New York.

A mission trip to Uganda and Kenya had put Africa on their spiritual radar screen. James recalls sitting in an Atlanta parking lot with Natarsha as they discussed their feelings about a new ministry pursuit.

"I could hear the fear in her voice and the angst," James said. He recalls his wife saying, "I'm not going to lie to you. If you had told me that God was calling us to Uganda I'd be happier with that. New York City is the last place I want to go."

Natarsha did agree to visit Brooklyn as they wrestled with discerning God's will. On that trip, they met a young woman who had recently picked up a Bible and wanted to learn it but needed a teacher. After that initial random encounter, Natarsha had a new understanding.

"I can't believe that God has given us the opportunity to serve Him here," she said.

She also couldn't believe God would take them and their small children from a spacious, five-bedroom house in Atlanta where he was on staff at Blueprint Church, a predominantly African-American inner-city church plant that is now a sponsoring church in the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Send Network.

The family arrived alone in Brooklyn on Feb. 6, 2013, with no team, no relationships, and no home. A 600-square-foot apartment costing \$2,400 per month became their home and the meeting place for City Group Bible studies. Next, they needed participants.

James is a bit of an imposing figure. The six-foot, two-inch former collegiate defensive football tackle took his gregarious personality to the streets of Brooklyn. Much like a door-to-door salesman, he was looking for prospects with no leads.

"When I came up here, I just found myself walking around, praying and dreaming," James said.

Each morning during his quiet time, he would ask God what to do. In the book of Acts, he noted, "These guys just kind of walked around and prayed."

So, his strategy was to prayerwalk Brooklyn asking God to open doors. The doors began to open.

A church across the street from the Barclay Center, home of the National Basketball Association's New York Nets, offered them a meeting place. One of the Nets staff members recognized James from his small part in a Christian movie called, *Man Up*. That person became one of the worship leaders at the new church James was forming.



**PLANTING IN BROOKLYN** — North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionaries James and Natarsha Roberson moved their family from Atlanta to Brooklyn in obedience to God's call to plant a church. The Robersons have three daughters (from left): Leah, Faith and Sophia. (NAMB photo)

Then James walked onto the campus of Long Island University and soon became a campus minister, with an office. He also kept walking until Bridge Church launched on April 20, 2014, with 180 people in attendance.

James wept that day as he considered what had transpired in 14 months. After arriving with only their obedience, God blessed them with a church in Brooklyn that mostly reaches second and third generation Millennials from Caribbean nations.

In light of the social unrest presently rocking the U.S., Bridge Church has created an initiative called Do Justice that

focuses on community relationships with police. Another issue of concern is over-gentrification, which has caused monthly rents to rise to the point that some of the Bridge Church's members have had to move out of Brooklyn.

However, the real issue for James is discipleship. With nine City Groups meeting for Bible study and community formation, each becomes like a spiritual family. At their Easter service on March 27, 2016, the church saw the fruit of its family discipleship efforts. With up to 160 attending, more than 20 came to the altar to profess faith in Christ.

"It was one of those days when you go, what happened?" James recalled.

Part of what happened was that Roberson received a grant to start Bridge Church from NAMB, made possible by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) funds. "You cannot start a church without resources," Roberson said.

James and Natarsha Roberson are AAEO Week of Prayer Missionaries for 2017. Half of the funding NAMB receives to support, train, and resource North American missionaries comes through AAEO. Learn more at [AnnieArmstrong.com](http://AnnieArmstrong.com).

## God just wouldn't let them leave

**AUGUSTA, Maine (Special and local reports)** — For reasons he didn't understand during his sophomore and junior years of college, Dan Coleman kept going to Maine. He did an internship with a church. He met and married Amanda, a native of Maine.

The couple accepted a ministry opportunity in Maine that didn't gel for them. They tried to leave the state, but God kept them there. Within a year, Coleman was an associate pastor at Kennebec Community Church (KCC) in Augusta, responsible for helping plant other churches.

A year after that, Coleman was handed the keys to the church. Five years later, KCC averages more than 900 attendees in its three Sunday services and baptizes more than 100 annually.

"God has given me the ability to connect with anybody, to find common ground," Coleman said.

Augusta is the capital of one of America's least-churched states. Most residents aren't proud to be from there due to the lack of opportunity and diversity.

"It's Maine," Coleman said. "It's snow, cold and dark." Yet he also finds Central Maine to be fertile for the gospel.

"It's there, it's just beneath a very hard and stiff layer of soil," he said. "You have got to work to crack through that first layer."

A significant ministry role Coleman fills is that of church planting catalyst for the North American Mission Board in the region. Coleman assists churches in discovering places to plant churches, and helps recruit church planters. The goal is to foster a network of church planting churches.

KCC is intentional in funneling attendees into community groups, where relationships begin. Most

group leaders follow a curriculum based on Coleman's sermons.

For a time, the church met in small venues while conducting up to three services per Sunday. When a former Catholic church came on the market, NAMB assisted with funds for renovation and the down payment, and now carries the mortgage on the building.

As the church has grown, so has the Coleman family. They have two daughters and an infant son. With more truth and grace to share with Mainers, their family could likely spend their entire ministry in Augusta.

Dan and Amanda Coleman Jacob are AAEO Week of Prayer Missionaries for 2017. Half of the funding NAMB receives to support, train, and resource North American missionaries comes through AAEO. Learn more at [AnnieArmstrong.com](http://AnnieArmstrong.com).



**RECONCILED** — Sabrina Miller (right) was fearful her marriage was dissolving. Searching for help, she encountered Kennebec Community Church. The truth of the Gospel changed her life, her husband, John (center), and repaired their marriage. Dan Coleman (left), North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionary, planted the Augusta, Maine, church to help reach the Millers and their neighbors. (NAMB photo)

As a child I was fascinated by trains. I suppose every young kid is. Maybe it was because of their size or power or noisiness, but I loved to stand and watch them as they would pass by -- all the way from the engine to the caboose. At times, we as kids would count the cars, and we would always try to get the engineer's attention so that they might blow their whistle at us. One thing I learned early on was that regardless of how many cars or what they were carrying, the cars all were going where the engine was going. The individual cars could not decide to take a right turn at the next crossing or head off to the woods or go down some back road. Why? Well, for one thing, the train's ability to travel and deliver is a system that only works when all the parts work together. Another thing is that they have no power whatsoever on their own. The power is in the engine.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 11:1, encouraged people to follow him as he followed Christ. That is a pretty bold statement. The key is not just to follow Paul. The key is for Paul and the entire church to join in following Jesus. To those squabbling saints at Corinth, he sought to help them to understand that their spiritual power and spiritual achievements would only be found as they unite behind

a purpose and in the strength of the living Christ Himself. Paul was not front and center; Jesus was. As Paul followed Christ, he called on them to help in order to get the job done. They all were needed.

If Jesus is our leader, it must be understood that He is the engine and, I suppose, the engineer. We should get behind Him. It is to that end that we are in the process of having the "Tell Me, Tell Someone," rallies all

across our state. I am so grateful for the pastors and lay people, and our associational missions directors and their staffs, who have worked so hard and encouraged their people to attend one of these rallies. It is my prayer that as I look forward to meeting with all the people at the rallies, that the meetings will not be between them and me but with Jesus.

Our goal, the goal, is to focus all our attention and all the attention of

all our people on the supreme task to which Jesus has called us. He wanted us to understand the simplicity, the sharp focus, of why He came here: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). It is the reason our churches exist. It is the reason our associations and our state convention exist, that we would all join together in lining up behind the Savior, get the word out that He loves us so much that He gave His life for us, that He rose again from the dead, and that He is alive today.

One of the simple yet powerful aspects of the Tell Me, Tell Someone challenge is to commit to invite five unchurched friends to come to your Bible study or church. Easter is only a few short weeks away, and what a great opportunity it presents for us to invite others to come to worship with us. The crowds will be great. The music will excite. The message will be powerful, and they and you will be blessed!

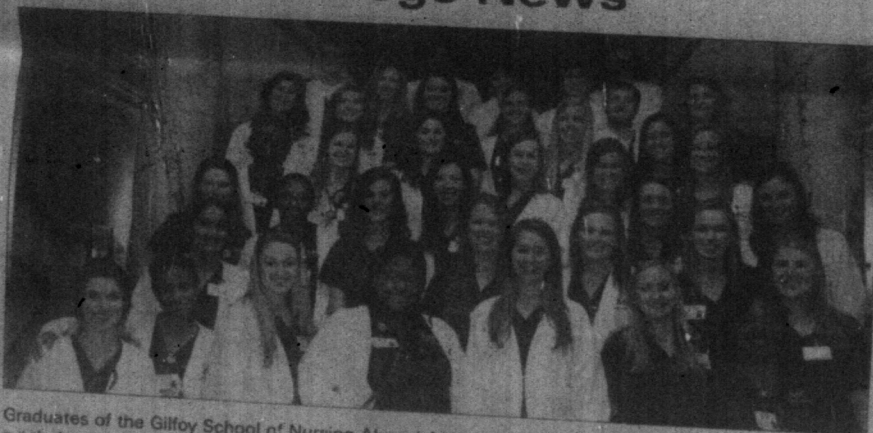
Let's each of us get lined up where God wants us to be following our great Leader, for the train always follows the engine. Be praying for these rallies. Attend if you can, and at every opportunity you have, capture the moment to tell somebody what Jesus has done for you.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).



## The Train Follows the Engine

### College News



Graduates of the Gilfoy School of Nursing Alumni Association of **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** created a scholarship at the school. The Gilfoy school was created in the 1930s and disbanded in August, 2016. The alumni presented a \$15,000 check to the Mississippi College School of Nursing for scholarships for seniors.



Lydia Myers, Laurel, was crowned Miss **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** scholarship pageant winner Feb. 24. She is a transfer from Jones County Junior College and is the daughter of Bill and Teri Myers. She is a graduate of Northeast Jones High and is majoring in public relations.

### BIBL i O C I P H E R

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Clue: T = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews 9:12

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

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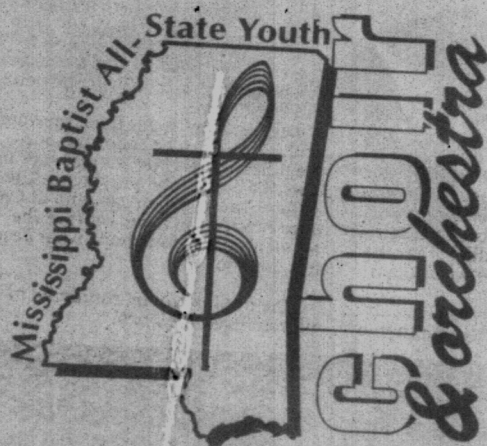


What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

March 9, 2017

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**. *Matthew 10:27 NAS*



The Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra is an auditioned and interviewed group of 9th - 12th graders who are actively involved in the music ministry of a Southern Baptist church in Mississippi.

Contact Music Dept. for more information at [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org), or [susancl@bellsouth.net](mailto:susancl@bellsouth.net)  
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CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## MBASYC&O CONCERT TOUR DATES

Wednesday, June 14, 2017  
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.  
400 Elm St  
Richton, MS 39476  
(601) 788-9607

Thursday, June 15, 2017  
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.  
300 N Cleveland Ave  
Long Beach, MS 39560  
(228) 864-2584

Friday, June 16, 2017  
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.  
1108 Robb St  
Summit, MS 39666  
(601) 248-6268

Saturday, June 17, 2017  
Highland Colony Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m.  
1200 Highland Colony Pkwy  
Ridgeland MS 39157  
(601) 856-4031

Sunday, June 18, 2017  
First Baptist Church, 11:00 a.m.  
402 N Van Buren St  
Carthage, MS 39051  
(601) 267-4583

First Baptist Church, 6:00 p.m.  
303 1st Ave  
Amory, MS 38821  
(662) 256-7131

Monday, June 19, 2017  
First Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.  
431 North State St  
Jackson, MS 39201  
(601) 949-1900

## Mississippi Baptist Handbell Festival



March 30 - April 1  
Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon

Barry Burris, Handbell Specialist - Skills Workshop  
Michelle Smith, Handbells Clinician

For more information including schedule and registration forms,  
call Church Music Department at  
1-800-748-1651 (in town — 601-292-3267).  
You can also visit our Web site at [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org)



**July 11-15**

**Pearl River Community College, Poplarville**

**July 18-22**

**Blue Mountain College**



Mississippi Baptist  
State Senior Adult  
Choir Festival

**May 9**

**Meadow Grove BC, Brandon**

Church Music Department Events  
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before May 31

call us at (601.292.3210) for more information

## Area II Senior Adult Spring Rally

March 27, 2017

\*FBC, Tupelo 9:00am-11:30am

\*Refreshments will begin at 8:30am\*

For questions, please contact:

Union County Association • 662.534.3940 | FBC Tupelo • 662.842.1327  
MBCB Discipleship Family Ministry Department

## 2017 CHURCH BUDGET LEADERS TRAINING

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Johnny Rakostrow  
Pastor & CPA  
Church Financial Compliance  
Ministerial Financial Compliance  
IRS Financial Compliance

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Friday  
Check in - 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Dinner - 5:30 p.m.  
First Session - 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday  
Breakfast - 7-8:00 a.m.  
First Session - 8:00 a.m.  
Conclusion - 12:30 p.m.

## 2017 BIBLE DRILL DATES

**Weekday Drills: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday Drill: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, April 18**

FBC, Brookhaven  
Emmanuel BC, Grenada

**Saturday, April 22**

Park Place BC, Brandon  
Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian

**Thursday, April 27**

FBC, Starkville  
FBC, Batesville

**Thursday, April 20**

Harrisburg BC, Tupelo  
Petal Harvey BC, Petal

**Tuesday, April 25**

Crossgates BC, Brandon  
Hillcrest BC, New Albany

**Saturday April 29**

(Selection Tournament)

Morrison Heights BC, Clinton

High School (Grades 10 - 12) Registration 10:15am

Middle School (Grades 6 - 9) Registration 11:15am

9 Year Scholarship Drill Registration 1:15pm

All info can be found here: [www.mbc.org/bible-drill](http://www.mbc.org/bible-drill)  
Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept - 601-292-3283



# 2017 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PREACHING CONFERENCE

The Study of "Mark"

April 17-19, 2017

Monday, Blue Mountain College

Tuesday, William Carey University

Wednesday, Mississippi College

Register today at  
tinyurl.com/preach2017

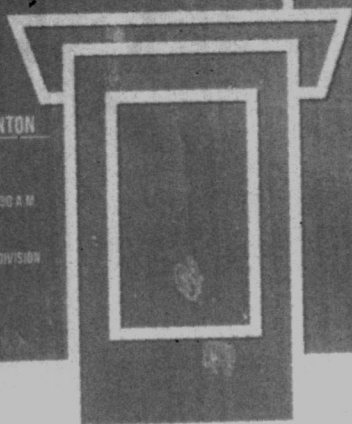
Pastor/Leadership Development | 601-292-3305

## 2017 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, CLINTON  
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017

REGISTRATION - 10:00 A.M. TOURNAMENT - 10:30 A.M.

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## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE SEASONS OF A WOMAN'S LIFE



FBC, CORINTH

FRI: 6:30 - 9:30 P.M. | SAT: 8:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Cost: \$25.00 per person

FOR ALL WOMEN 18 AND BEYOND



Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention WML Women's Ministries of Mississippi  
and Hosted by Women's Leadership in North Mississippi

## MINISTERS 2017 GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 8-9

LAKE CAROLINE GOLF CLUB  
MADISON, MS  
1:00 PM MONDAY START TIME



MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR THIS TIME OF  
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Pray this day for...

March 10 - March 23, 2017

*"praying at all times in the Spirit...To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."*  
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach & encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allen**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Deal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration, church outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Guy DeMars**, missionary ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination.



Miss Addie Grace Putnam - 05/16/00

Parents: Tracy & Genie  
European Peoples

Miss Alana - 05/18/11

Parents: J & M  
Restricted

Miss Adriann S. - 05/03/99

Parents: Jerry & Kelly  
Restricted

Miss Anna Claire - 05/23/01

Parents: J & P  
Restricted

Miss Olivia C. - 05/05/10

Parents: David and Robin  
Restricted

Miss Sarah S. - 05/24/11

Parents: J & C  
Restricted

Miss Lucy L. - 05/10/09

Parents: Jay & Amanda  
Restricted

Mr. Cruz White - 05/26/10

Parents: David & Regina  
American Peoples

Mr. Judson - 05/15/09

Parents: Keith & Susan  
Restricted

Mr. R.R. - 05/26/14

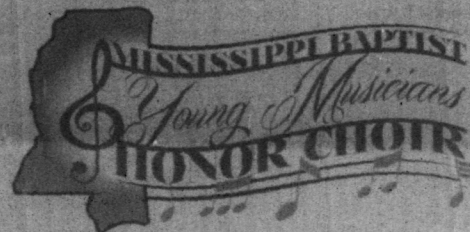
Parents: J&K  
Restricted

Mr. Micah Peacock - 05/16/98

Parents: Kevin & Brenda  
European Peoples

Mr. C.S. - 5/29/03

Parents: S & M  
Last Frontier



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TO US THE MYSTERY  
OF HIS WILL  
EPHESIANS 1:9-10

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601-292-3305 OR [WELARY@MBCB.ORG](mailto:WELARY@MBCB.ORG) FOR MORE INFO.

Encourage an MK with a card! To Be Sent April 20, 2017, by the WMU Office



PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Board, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!

NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MS, Birthdays, PO Box 330, Jackson MS 39205.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

**HOUSE TOPS**



# Missionary thought clinic; God thought English

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — The International Learning Center (ILC) of Jacksonville, Fla., has taught English and citizenship to more than 6,000 people from 108 countries over the past 20 years. More than 1,500 students have made professions of faith while establishing more than 94 house groups.

God has done this through a woman who hated English as a subject in school. With a bachelor of science in nursing degree, Kim Carr's professional expertise was starting and running medical businesses.

"I kept trying to talk God into a clinic and he kept saying, 'English,'" she said. "That was a huge surprise for me."

After receiving her English as a Second Language certification, Carr started teaching classes at Chinese restaurants until the YMCA had a plan for what would become a growing project. Now, the ILC has its own 10,000 square-foot building and a thorough curriculum that the North American Mission Board (NAMB) hopes to see implemented in cities throughout North America.

Jacksonville is one of America's smallest intake centers, but

the flow of refugees into the city is diverse. Carr believes most cities have the same mix of immigrants and could use an ILC.

New refugees face many obstacles once they arrive. Most don't know English or American culture, and many left their homeland penniless.

Though they may be lacking physical baggage, emotional and political baggage often weighs them down. Many flee to America because of threats on their lives, most of them coming from countries where they are leery of western religion and slow to trust.

"They will trust an American over almost anyone," Carr said. "They just don't trust people from their own community because too many have been killed trusting."

Through the ILC, Carr and her volunteers focus on teaching English and citizenship skills which the immigrants typically are eager to learn. As relationships develop, she is able to refer students to church planters from their language and culture. Those planters become advocates for the immigrants to help them navigate a new and confusing culture.

Many eventually join a house group after having a dream or a

vision of the Lord. "They bring trusted family and friends into their group," Carr said. "They don't casually bring somebody who just decided to become a believer. They are careful to vet those they bring in."

The ILC model of partnering a compassion-based program with indigenous planters is the most natural outcome one could hope for, Carr said. "When you meet people's needs with excellence, establishing an authentic relationship with them, you are so different than anything they have seen and they will listen to why you are different."

Jacksonville's indigenous planters help immigrants understand that following the Lord isn't just a western religion. "We don't want to introduce individuals to a western religion," Carr said. "We want them to enter into authentic relationship and worship in a way that is expressed by believers from their nation."

Usha Reifsnider, who has a Hindu background, serves on the ILC executive team. She's doing masters degree work at Cambridge University in England on the modern Diaspora, the dispersion of people groups from their native lands to live as minorities in new homelands.

She leads cultural sensitivity training for volunteers.

"I have learned that simply the way we position our bodies and speak to people can cause such lasting damage that you can never share the Good News," Carr said.

One of ILC's volunteers who has learned to navigate the cultural sensitivities is H.B., who serves as the center's academic director. A former public school teacher, her vision of cross-cultural work expanded on a trip to Alaska with her home church, First Church of Orange Park. She believes that



**WORSHIPPING TOGETHER** — Kim Carr (left) and husband Ron (right), meet with Matt (second from right) and Usha Reifsnider before a worship service at Mandarin Church Jacksonville, Fla. The Carrs are North American Mission Board 2017 Week of Prayer missionaries. (NAMB photo)

God has gifted her to connect to the nations.

"I have a big heart, but I can't go to faraway places," H.B. said, so she serves more than 100 people groups in Jacksonville who come to the ILC.

She is responsible for evaluating incoming students and determining their class placement. The ILC segregates classes by gender but not by nations. As the students learn among people from other nations and receive the love of volunteers, attitudes begin to change.

"We wish the world could experience the peace and love that we have found here," H.B. said the refugees often tell her.

When NAMB leaders discovered Carr and ILC, they realized that the 32 Send North America cities need the Jacksonville model. NAMB's Send Relief focus has developed an ILC initiative and made Carr the national director and mobilizer.

Now, she's working to establish new ILCs across the United States and Canada. "I am feeling the weight of it," Carr said.

She continues to work out of Jacksonville but travels frequently to other cities to implement the ILC template with its proven teaching curriculum.

Carr is a member of Mandarin Church in Jacksonville and receives Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) funds from NAMB for her work. Likewise, AAEO contributions are funding the template replication. A key component will be a partnership with local indigenous planters who start house groups in each Send City.

Kim and John Carr are AAEO Week of Prayer Missionaries for 2017. Half of the funding NAMB receives to support, train, and resource North American missionaries comes through AAEO. Learn more at [AnnieArmstrong.com](http://AnnieArmstrong.com).

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR** — BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED AT MERIDIAN, MS IN THE WHYNOT COMMUNITY OF SOUTHERN LAUDERDALE COUNTY. Please email resume to [office@whynotbethany.org](mailto:office@whynotbethany.org) or mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

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## DAHL

cont. from p. 1

Church leadership may have been hesitant to hire him. He had no ministry experience and was a new believer. "I would not have hired myself," Dahl joked.

Resonate Church sent Dahl and another person to the nearby University of Idaho in Moscow to assist with a new church plant. Resonate Church had started there. Unfortunately, things did not work out.

"I failed to see a lot of breakthrough on campus and burned out," he said. "I didn't think ministry was for me. It crushed my soul."

Dahl focused his efforts on his engineering career for the next two years, working at a sports science laboratory at his alma mater, Washington State University in Pullman. Rather than career fulfillment, the work brought questions.

"It was during those two years that I felt unrest and eventually experienced a foundational call to ministry," said Dahl, who then understood what God was asking Him to do. It was time to try ministry again.

With his new bride Jessica and a team of 14 others, he moved three hours west of Pullman in May 2014 to rural Ellensburg to be the first Resonate Church site pastor at Central Washington University (CWU), which has nearly 11,000 students.

Jessica and other team members brought balance to Jacob's strengths and weaknesses. By September 2014, Resonate Church at CWU launched. Within the first year, 36 students professed faith in Christ and 41 were baptized.

The Resonate Church strategy forgoes brick and mortar. Instead, members are relentless about relationships, something college students crave. Though social media connects modern collegiates more than ever, Jacob said they've never been more isolated.

College students are one of the least reached people groups in the nation, he said. That phenomenon is more so in the Northwest. Colleges are spiritually dark places at a dark time in history.

"It's dark on top of dark," he observed.

Jacob finds modern students have virtually no knowledge of the Gospel or biblical stories. At their fall retreat, there were students who didn't know about sin. Others could not believe Christ's resurrection was real.

While that lack of knowledge presents challenges, Jacob also sees opportunity. "People coming to Christ have no preconceived ideas of who God is. It's a fresh foundation."

Resonate Church conducts worship service on Sunday nights at a campus location. The Resonate Church team is often on campus talking to students and inviting them to worship

"Church is not an event on your calendar you have to squeeze in. Church is a family that you become part of."

Jacob Dahl

### NAMB missionary

or to their villages, which are community groups where participants "unpack" content from the previous Sunday sermon.

From there, students can join a gender-specific huddle where they begin to learn about following Christ through the disciple making process, with the goal of each student demonstrating obedience by being on mission.

Besides worship, villages, and huddles, Jacob's team spends many hours hanging out with the students. Somewhere in that mix, a sense of family emerges.

"Church is not an event on your calendar you have to squeeze in," he said. "Church is a family that you become part of."

Hanging out is a big deal at Resonate Church. College students like crowds, loud music, and fun. They get that through Resonate Church, which regularly sponsors house parties and "compelling gatherings."

"I love how, as a church, as a community, we just throw real house parties and we're there and we're having fun and we're doing everything that a college kid is doing, but we're not getting drunk," said Shannon Hazard, a CWU co-ed.

Even Resonate Church's baptism services have a celebratory party feel with loud music, video testimonies, signs honoring baptismal candidates, and lots of cheering. Jacob teaches converts that their baptism is their commissioning service to live a mission lifestyle.

Resonate Church is a network of college churches in the Northwest U.S. begun by Texan Keith Wieser, who is now a North American Mission Board (NAMB) collegiate church planting catalyst.

Wieser is set on starting 21 campus churches across the Northwest by 2021 with financial assistance from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO).

Jacob and Jessica now have an infant son but remain fully engaged in the Resonate Church collegiate ministry at CWU. Yes, college students can be "flakey," and ministry amongst them can be messy.

The Dahls also find joy. "There is a special joy reserved for those who make disciples and share the gospel," Jacob said.

Jacob and Jessica Dahl are AAEO Week of Prayer Missionaries for 2017. Half of the funding NAMB receives to support, train, and resource North American missionaries comes through AAEO. Learn more at [AnnieArmstrong.com](http://AnnieArmstrong.com).

## LENO

cont. from p. 1

Detroit River from Windsor, the southernmost city in Canada separated from Detroit only by the river of the same name.

Parker is the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Send Detroit City Missionary, and he was collaborating with a Plant Midwest seminar.

Parker knew about the Leno Bible study effort and had one question: "How can we help you?" Garth wasn't sure what help Parker could offer, but he was quite sure he didn't want to associate with another denomination.

Garth also met Andrew Lamme, the Canadian National Baptist Convention's lead church planting catalyst for Southern Ontario. Multiple telephone calls of encouragement from Lamme to the Lenos soon followed, along with emails and offers of help—something they rarely received in more than 30 years with the other denomination.

Garth was soon the recipient of valuable resources, training, and mentoring through the NAMB Send North America initiative as well as Southern Baptist church planters who took an interest in helping him.

With counsel from Parker, Lamme, others, and an affiliate with the Canadian convention, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) funds soon helped the Lenos and their following of "disengaged and disenfranchised" people, as Garth describes them, to secure and renovate a warehouse for The Gathering church.

The Gathering became part of Send Detroit, NAMB's church planting strategy for the metro area surrounding the city.



GARTH AND PATTY LENO

Garth is working toward a master's degree in church planting at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. "I'm learning as much as I can about church planting. I'm like a sponge."

He's learning about creating an invitational culture, sparking evangelism, transformational discipleship, hosting summer camps, and mobilizing mission teams to help The Gathering conduct the camps.

"We're talking about intentionally engaging this city with the Gospel," Leno pointed out.

Garth and Patty modeled hospitality during the Bible studies that started in their home, and that still shows. The Gathering Place is the church's coffee and snack area at the back of the warehouse-turned-worship center, where people hang out after services and talk to the delight of Garth's shepherding heart.

Starting a Baptist church may have been foreign to Garth several years ago but his church is on board now,

particularly with missions giving. In its first year, The Gathering collected \$9,350 for AAEO. The second year resulted in more than \$13,000 given to AAEO.

The Gathering is now assisting other church plants, and plans to sponsor one soon in a nearby town. The shepherd loves his flock and wants his church to be a church planting church.

Meanwhile, Garth enjoys the changes God has allowed him to experience through church planting. "I have become much more kingdom-focused. I've become much more Gospel centered. Discipleship is key. Prayer has become more valuable to me. It's a more important tool in the toolkit than it has ever been before."

Garth and Patty Leno are AAEO Week of Prayer Missionaries for 2017. Half of the funding NAMB receives to support, train, and resource North American missionaries comes through AAEO. Learn more at [AnnieArmstrong.com](http://AnnieArmstrong.com).

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 630, Jackson, MS 39205-0630. FAX: (601) 232-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).



## Is Jesus Fully God? • Matthew 17:1-13

Our lessons leading to the cross involve Jesus is taking His disciples on a journey to a deeper place, knowing that the cross is imminent, and they need to be prepared for what is to come. It had been six days since Jesus had made the statement to Peter that "upon this rock, will I build my church" referring to Peter's statement that Jesus was the Christ the Son of the Living God. Now, for three of the disciples, there was to be yet another revelation. The euphoria of knowing Jesus was the Messiah had been shattered by what the Messiahship would involve to both Jesus and His followers. But now this human perspective was to be balanced by a supernatural revelation. His true nature needed to be revealed. It would be a good lesson for us as well.

Our lesson today can be divided into three sections: His Presence, His Purpose and His Perspective.

**His Presence**, both now and eternally, was revealed by Jesus showing His glory. Peter, James and John were still very much looking to Jesus as an earthly king...one who would bring relief to the Jews. Their minds needed to see more than what their hearts wanted. As the four went up a mountain, Jesus was transfigured before them. That word

transfigured meant that Jesus' true nature as God/Man was revealed. I am sure that the three had read about Moses' seeing God's glory and here they were seeing some of the same vision. We don't know exactly what they saw but we know there was a brightness and holiness like they had never seen. Then Moses and Elijah joined Jesus and it was more than outspoken Peter could stand! He suggested building tents so that they

would never have to leave again. All of Peter's life he had heard of Moses and Elijah those who represented the Law and the Prophets.

If he could be with them forever things would be ok. Perhaps he was still trying to escape the death and suffering Jesus had told them would come.

Don't we all do that? We want the escape when the reality of suffering is too much. We want to stay on the mountaintop, too, but just as Peter heard God we also hear God saying, "This is my Son..."

listen to Him." God's authority spoke and they fell to the ground. When they looked again they saw only Jesus. This is very important for Peter, James and John. Perhaps they remembered Jesus saying these words, "Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." Matthew 5:17 (HCSB) It was time for these three to begin to look forward: Moses and Elijah were but Jesus is!

In order to move forward they needed to see Jesus as their only hope.

We need to find this as well. I did a ladies conference several years

ago where I asked, "If Jesus was all you had, would He be enough?" I had assumed the answer would be a resounding yes but one lady stated that no, He would not. She wanted the gifts He gave to her. He would not be enough. This revelation of seeing only Jesus is very important to all of us. Soon these three would lose just about everything includ-

ing Jesus. Jesus needed them to know His presence was there even when they no longer saw Him.

**His Purpose** was made clear as speaker of God's authority. Since he was the fulfillment of the law and prophets, His very words in the coming days would become some of the most important they would hear. They would hear God's voice, "Listen to Him," again and again. His purpose had been made known to them six days earlier when Jesus said He would have to die but then would rise again the third day. He would be enough. His purpose was for more than just the disciples and those who longed for a king...His purpose was for salvation. Jesus would be enough.

This would be a new **Perspective**. Peter, James and John would no longer be looking back toward tradition but looking forward to a new thing God was doing. Often God gives us a glimpse of what is to come so we can make it through. This vision, I am sure, returned to the minds of these three on lots of occasions. Where are you looking for hope?

Grace is a Bible teacher, conference leader, and member of First Church, Clinton.



Explore the Bible  
with Cyndi Grace

## Victorious Hope • Matthew 8:5-13

Isn't wonderful how accessible our God is? When you call out, he answers. When you pray, he listens. You never get a busy signal from your heavenly Father nor will you ever receive a robocall from him. Jesus promised his followers that, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (Jn 6:37 NIV). So whether you are coming to Jesus for salvation, forgiveness, hope, or healing, or with any other need, he can and will help you.

Today's lesson is about the victorious hope we have in Christ, and from Christ. The Roman soldier that came to request Jesus' assistance was in a crisis. He had a servant whom he obviously cared for deeply and who was laying on his deathbed in severe pain. The odds of him getting better or even surviving were not good. The centurion, out of desperation, sought Jesus's help and asked him to speak healing over this special person.

Jesus offered to make a house call, but the soldier felt undeserving of the Lord's visit and therefore discouraged him from making the trip. Let's take a look at some of the qualities this military man demonstrated that motivated Jesus to act on his request.

First of all, the centurion believed Jesus had the power to heal and the willingness to do so. That's what the Bible calls faith. The writer of Hebrews defined it like this: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Heb 11:1 NIV). The Roman soldier certainly believed Jesus was able to help his servant and did not hesitate to call upon the Lord. Sometimes we have no problem believing

in the ability of God. He can do anything, right? But where we struggle is wondering if he will do that 'anything' for us. Do we take God at his word? Do we lean on and claim his promises for daily power and encouragement. Just say the word, and my servant will be healed. Those were the words and declaration of faith the Roman soldier spoke. No wonder Jesus was elated over the quantity and quality of this man's faith.

Second, the soldier asked for Jesus' help, not for himself, but for someone

else. He stood in the gap for his terminally ill servant and on his behalf earnestly requested that Jesus heal the man. I believe God smiles every time we stand in the gap for others and intercede for them, for this demonstrates that we are other-centered, which pleases God and fulfills the second greatest command to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Third, the soldier was quite humble.

Although he was a man in power himself, obviously his position did not puff him up with pride or lead him to believe he was better

than anybody else. In fact, he strongly discouraged Jesus from coming to his house because he did not feel worthy. This soldier was under no illusions that he had unlimited abilities either. He knew that the healing his servant needed could only come from God. Jesus is drawn to humility. He is readily available to help those who acknowledge

their need for him. The words of James echo in our ears, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (James 4:10 NIV). The centurion did not let his pride keep him from asking Jesus for help. How often we find ourselves living in the same ruts of sin and despair because we can't bring ourselves to the point of inviting others into our lives to give us assistance. We are afraid they might think we are weak or that the disclosure of our need might change their opinion of us. The centurion did not seem to be all that concerned about these kinds of things. He just knew if Jesus did not heal his servant, the man would die.

The Incarnation of Jesus reinforced what the Bible taught about God in centuries prior to Jesus' coming. One of the strongest lessons is that God makes house calls. He comes to where people are suffering and brings them help and hope. What do you need from the Lord today? He is still making house calls, and he continues to be drawn to those who are humble and acknowledge their need for his intervention.

Burnett is pastor of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.

Bible Studies for Life  
with Jim Burnett



## EZELL

cont. from p.2

of Texas, Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

The state convention with the largest increase to Annie

was Tennessee with \$376,878 more than last year. Their 2016 total was \$4,561,392.

Pastors, thank you for leading your churches to prioritize missions and give sacrificially to this offering. Thank you, Woman's Missionary Unions at the

national, state, and church levels, for everything you do to promote the Annie offering and champion missions in our churches.

Your giving means the world to our missionaries, many of whom have made great sacrifices and left loved

ones far behind to serve in some very difficult places. Your giving is making an eternal difference to the thousands of people who are being introduced to Jesus each year by our missionaries.

That is ultimately why we give, and we are humbled to

see God work so powerfully through Southern Baptists.

Ezell is president of NAMB, headquartered in Alpharetta, Ga. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style, clarity, and to include local information.

## Just for the Record



**EAST UNION CHURCH, MAGNOLIA**, ordained Arnie Smith and Adam Steele as deacons Feb. 26. Shown are Smith with his wife Melanie and daughters Hilarie and Mikaela; and Steele with his wife Laurie and sons Slade and Sawyer.



The youth ministry of **NORTH COLUMBIA CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, sponsored a Souper Bowl Sunday soup and sandwich fundraiser for their Centrifuge trip following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Two members of the University of Southern Mississippi football team shared their testimonies.



**HOLLYWOOD CHURCH, SLEDGE**, held a Valentine banquet Feb. 11 with admission being a love offering to the Baptist Children's Village. Shown is Nancy Allred presenting a box to pastor Roy Hartzell.



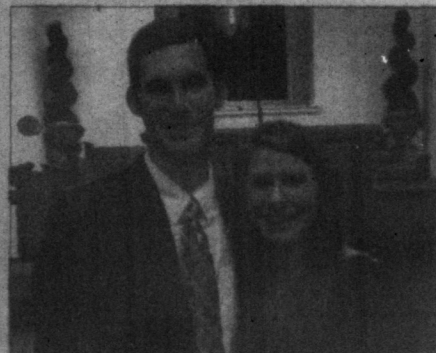
**UNITY CHURCH, WEST**, recognized Joe Alexander for his many years of service, presenting him a plaque and the title Honorary Deacon for Life. Shown are Alexander and pastor Danny Townsend.



The youth group of **FIRST CHURCH, CLARA**, provided a Flannel and Friends Valentine's program Feb. 19, with the proceeds assisting with their trip to M-Fuge. Shown are the youth and leaders, Jason Sehon and Marsha Sehon.



**CONCORD CHURCH, DRY CREEK**, presented Lyle Bullock with the 2016 Man of the Year award on Baptist Men's Day. Shown are Bullock and assistant Brotherhood director Luke Ledbetter.



**FREDONIA CHURCH, NEW ALBANY**, ordained Jeremy Vaughan to the ministry Feb. 26. He is shown with his wife, Victoria.



The WMU of **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, hosted an appreciation supper for local volunteer firemen.



**RED BANKS CHURCH, RED BANKS**, ordained three new deacons during a deacon ordination Jan. 29. Clay Anthony of the Collaborative Missionary Network charged the church. Shown, front row, are Anthony, David Nelson, Brooks Brownlee, Keith Inmon, pastor Jonathan Childress, and Lemuel Rappa; back row, music minister Alex Calderon, John McClatchy, Jamie Rappa, and Jon Woods.

### MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



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